



# Edgecombe County

## Department of Social Services

June 2008

Kim Slaymaker -Editor

### A Message from our Director



#### Summer is here and with it comes Hurricane Season.

June is National Safety Month. The children are out of school, the pools are open, it's vacation time, grills are at full tilt...there's a great deal of fun to be shared with family and friends. However, there are many hazards we must be aware of to make our summer a safe and happy time for all. Summer also brings with it the Hurricane Season lasting from June 1st – November 30th. We should all take a few minutes to make sure we are prepared to weather these storms and the devastation they can bring with them. Remember, we all are required to serve the community when disaster strikes. Being prepared at home will make leaving our own families to serve others a little easier.

*Man A. Asst*

Man can live about forty days without food, about three days without water, about eight minutes without air, but only for one second without hope.

-- Author Unknown

#### June Service Anniversaries

Employee	Unit - Area	Yrs
Samia Smith	Fiscal – Tarboro	23
Bensanee Pittman	Work First – Rocky Mount	13
Trina Ebron	Children Services – Tarboro	10
Anna Davis	Children Services – Tarboro	8
Patricia Drewery	Fiscal – Tarboro	8
Georgia Kamp	Children Services – Tarboro	8
Nellie Rodgers	Medicaid – Tarboro	8
Sheila Norman	Work First – Rocky Mount	7
Brenda Dickens	Child Support – Rocky Mount	4
Synilla Reaves	Child Support – Rocky Mount	2
Diane Parker	Food & Nutrition – Tarboro	2

#### June Birthdays

Day	Employee	Unit - Area
June 5	Oglatha Woodard	Children Services – Tarboro
7	Kimberly Pearce	Children Services - Tarboro
11	Carolyn Johnson-Faison	Adult Services - Tarboro
11	Miller Moore	Children Services – Tarboro
12	Marisa Spruill	Medicaid - Tarboro
14	Pamela Williams	Medicaid – Rocky Mount
22	Elana Pittman	Adult Services – Tarboro
27	Elizabeth Beasley	Children Services – Tarboro
29	Kimberly Dozier	Work First - Tarboro

#### Congratulations to our new Employees

Oglatha Woodard, Children Services - Tarboro  
Kim Slaymaker, Administrative Assistant - Tarboro

#### Congratulations on your Promotion/Transfer

Nyrika Taylor – Medicaid Supervisor – Rocky Mount  
Marisa Spruill – Medicaid Supervisor - Tarboro  
Shawn Watson – Children Services – Tarboro

#### Congratulations on your Retirement

Anne Pittman – Food & Nutrition – Rocky Mount

## **Who They Are & What They Do**

### **Child Support**

#### **The Positive Influence of Child Support**

It is the mission of the Edgecombe Co. DSS Child Support to ensure that all children receive the support they deserve. To this end, the agency strives to work with all involved parties to provide information, reach solutions to problems and take appropriate actions when necessary.

Establishing a legal father for a child ensures certain rights for the child such as a greater sense of identity, access to paternal medical information, social security, insurance benefits and military benefits. A child gains legal rights and privileges such as inheritance. Paternity also imposes a duty of support by the father.

Monetary support for a child is critical in the home and brings much needed benefits to the child. Clothes, food and appropriate housing are necessities that without Child Support in some cases would not be available. Furthermore, monetary support gives a sense of caring to the child from the non custodial parent as well as builds self-esteem. Child Support allows children to participate in extra curricular activities that may not be possible on just one parent's income. Medical insurance is a form of support that ensures that children get a healthy start in life. As well as monetary support, medical support can also be obtained through the Child Support Office.

Due to the economic and job situation in our county the Child Support Enforcement works with non-custodial parents who are unemployed by referring them to outside agencies who can possibly help them to attain employment. They are given the opportunity to do job searches prior to any court action for non compliance of the court order. Since ensuring that support is obtained for the child and knowing the benefits to the family, every effort is made to get money coming in prior to any court action taking place.

### **Food and Nutrition**

#### **Food Stamps**

The Food Stamp Program provides monthly benefits that help low-income households buy the food they need for good health. You may qualify for food stamps if you:

- Work for low wages
- Are unemployed or work part time
- Receive welfare or other assistance payments, or
- Are elderly or disabled and live on a small income.

Under agreement with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, State public assistance agencies run the program through their local offices. The basic rules are the same everywhere.

The amount of food stamps a household can receive is based on the U S Department of Agriculture's Thrifty Food Plan, which is an estimate of how much it actually costs to provide you household with nutritious but inexpensive meals. This cost estimate is revised periodically to keep pace with food prices.

If your household meets the program's eligibility tests, the amount of food stamps you receive will also depend on the number of people in your household and on the amount of monthly income left after certain deductions are subtracted.

For most households, food stamps are only part of their food budgets; they must spend some of their own cash along with their food stamps in order to buy enough food for a month.

For the month of May 2008, there are 5,317 Food Stamp households. There are 11,546 people receiving Food Stamps. During this same time period \$1,144,112.00 in Food Stamp benefits were issued. The average amount of Food Stamps per person within Edgecombe County is \$99.09 per month.

Of the 11,546 people currently receiving Food Stamp benefits, 5389 or 47% are under age 18.

## CONGRATULATIONS FOOD & NUTRITION UNIT!



Gloria Applewhite received an award on behalf of the Food and Nutrition Unit for a 98% payment accuracy rate. Way to go! Keep up the good work!



Pictured above from left to right are: Marva Scott, Director, Gloria Applewhite, Food & Nutrition Supervisor, Pat Jones, Rocky Mount office and Helyn Walston, Tarboro office. These ladies traveled to Greensboro for the Food Service and Nutrition Conference held June 4, 5 and 6.



On May 9, 2008 fourteen members of NCSSA Edgecombe DSS attended Gates County District meeting.

## NCSSA Edgecombe DSS News

NCSSA is an active member of the N.C. Social Services Consortium which was formed in 1981 and is composed of NCSSA, the North Carolina Association of County Directors and the North Carolina Association of County Boards of Social Services. The North Carolina Social Services Association (NCSSA) is an organization established to promote the advancement of the social condition all those served by the social services system in North Carolina through the promotion of a positive image of social services, enhancement of public esteem for individuals employed by Departments of Social Services and external partners across the state, development of results-based policy and practices, response to social crisis through the application of policy and through charitable donations, development of education and educational support through the offering of and/or promotion of training and scholarships to ensure the continuing education of its members and employees of departments of social services, and through partnership with other organizations pursuing the same objectives and goals.

Our goals for year 2008-2009 are as follows: Visiting nursing homes, hospitals and schools. Money raised will go toward assisting young ladies/gentlemen in elementary and high school to purchase toiletries; scholarships for employees of Edgecombe DSS; thanksgiving dinner for the homeless and adopting a family or two during the holidays to help with many expenses.

On May 9, 2008 fourteen members of NCSSA Edgecombe DSS attended Gates County District meeting. All members were dressed in their uniform blue jeans and white T-Shirts (see attached photo). I would like to take this opportunity to thank each and everyone who attended: Ms. Marva Scott, Ms. Avril Lyons, Ms. Brenda Dickens, Ms. Dorothy Baylor, Ms. Kiersten Talbot, Ms. Sharon Revis, Ms. Kenisha Wiggins, Ms. Lavette Dundas, Ms. Sylvia Hinton, Ms. Pamela Prunty, Ms. Shawn Watson, Ms. Samantha Knight, Ms. Shaqwan Sherrod, and Ms. Teresa Rountree. Excess revenues for the T-Shirts sales are being applied to help further the cause of our 2008-2009 goals. For more information and how to purchase a T-Shirts, please call Darnise Bradley in the Rocky Mount or Sylvia Hinton in the Tarboro.

Our fundraising is well on its way. The Shrimp Luncheon that was held in May 2008 was very successful. Our gratitude goes out to everyone that was a part of this event.

We are also planning an autumn ball in October 2008 at the Imperial Center.

Our upcoming fundraising events:

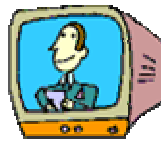
- **June 30, 2008 at 12pm – 1:30pm in the Tarboro and Rocky Mount Office**  
[Menu: hot dogs, potato chips and cakes]
- **Autumn Ball October 2008 at the Imperial Center - Donation \$20 per person and \$35 couple**

We are doing magnificently in our recruiting but our goal is to achieve 80% membership. **PLEASE COME ON BOARD, WE WOULD LOVE TO HAVE YOU.**

**If you would like more information on NCSSA including its history, benefits or objectives please see [www.ncssa.net](http://www.ncssa.net) or see any member.**  
NCSSA – Joining Together to Serve Edgecombe Community Better  
and be among the Best of the Best!



## Agency News



**Children Services Unit** would like to announce:

On June 18, 2008, Edgecombe County DSS celebrated two of our foster children, Ashley and Shermanique's success. Ashley graduated from Tarboro High School. Shermanique graduated from Western Vance County High School. Edgecombe County DSS celebrated with a picnic at the agency and presentation of gifts. Ashley moved into her new apartment with her daughter. Ashley would like to thank our director, Mrs. Scott, board member and all the staff that celebrated and or contributed to her home by providing gifts and monies. We are so proud of both of the Graduates. Both being in foster care have had a lot of obstacles along the way but did not allow it to stop them.

**Denotra Jones-Mills** offers congratulations to her family members for a job well done! Her son, Shaheed Jones, graduated from 5<sup>th</sup> grade and will be attending middle school in the fall. Her son, Devonte' Gunn scored 3 on Math EOG and passed to 4<sup>th</sup> grade. Her daughter Shavonte, passed to 2<sup>nd</sup> grade, her step son Kevin Mills graduated 8<sup>th</sup> grade and will be a rising freshman at Southeast Halifax; her step son Christopher Mills, Jr. graduated from Southeast Halifax High School and will be entering the job world or the military. Her step daughter, Kourtney Mills will be a rising senior at Southeast Halifax High School. Congratulations to you all!

**Margaret Wiggs**, Rocky Mount Child Support Unit, expresses a heartfelt THANK YOU! To all who donated leave to me during my time in the hospital and for all the cards and telephone calls I received while I was out of work, Thank You, your kindness and generosity was greatly appreciated!

On behalf of the DSS Agency, our sympathy is extended to **Angela Joyner**, Tarboro Children Services Secretary, on the loss of her Grandmother, Ietta Hankins. You and your family are in our thoughts and prayers!

On June 17<sup>th</sup> the DSS Staff attended Crime Prevention Training at ECC. The class was taught by Commander AJ Gwyn, a retired law enforcement investigator from Metro Atlanta, Georgia. A member of the Southern Crime Prevention Task Force, Mr. Gwyn conducts over 300 seminars in a year across the United States. He presented 25 topics in the 60 minute class which covered what criminals look for and how certain crimes are committed.

**Susan Bolton** would like to congratulate her granddaughter on her recent Gold Medal. Ten year old Taylor Rogers participated in the 4-H District Activity Day at ECC on Friday, June 20<sup>th</sup>. She received a Gold Medal for her presentation of Telephone Etiquette for the 9 & 10 year old age group. This earns her the privilege to go to the 4-H Congress in Raleigh on July 21, 22 and 23 at North Carolina State University. Congratulations Taylor!

**Cliff Hickman** is acting president of the Jackie Robinson Baseball League, Inc. (JRBL) out of Greenville, N.C. JRBL is a non-profit organization that serves some 180 youth with two baseball divisions (6 to 8 and 9 to 12 years old). Cliff Hickman took 60 of these youth from the 9 to 12 year old division to Atlanta, Ga. on June 21-22, 2008. The group toured the King Center, the old & new Ebenezer Baptist Church (Dr. M.L. King home church), Dr. King's childhood home, and the African American Panoramic Experience Museum. The group also attended the Atlanta Braves Game at 7:10 Saturday evening. The game was very exciting with the Braves winning the game 5 to 4 in the bottom of the 9<sup>th</sup> ending. The group spent the night at the Hyatt Regency Atlanta in downtown Atlanta. This was an excellent educational and social outing for the youth.

**Adult Services:** A baby shower honoring Lakesia Everette was given June 11, 2008 by the Adult Services Unit and friends of Lakesia. Lakesia and her husband are expecting "twin" baby boys the end of July. The "boys" received many gifts and the "baby" cake was adorable. The Everette's have six other children, all boys! A football team in the works! – Bobbie Noble

**Louise Draughn** would like everyone to be aware of the TV Converter Box Coupon Program. For a complete list of participating retailers, and the answers to frequently asked questions, please visit [www.DTV2009.gov](http://www.DTV2009.gov) or you can call 1-888-DTV-2009.

### Hurricane Preparedness

As we move through this Hurricane Season let's focus on BEING INFORMED AND PREPARED.

According to the National Hurricane Center Website, "Preventing the loss of life and minimizing the damage to property from hurricanes are responsibilities that are shared by all."

Throughout the website information is provided regarding actions you can take based on specific hurricane hazards. The most important thing we are encouraged to do is to be informed and prepared.

Following you will find a few of the Disaster Prevention Guidelines as recommended by the National Hurricane Center Website.

### FAMILY DISASTER PLAN

- ◇ Discuss the type of hazards that could affect your family. Know your home's vulnerability to storm surge, flooding and wind.
- ◇ Locate a safe room or the safest areas in your home for each hurricane hazard. In certain circumstances the safest areas may not be your home but within your community.
- ◇ Determine escape routes from your home and places to meet. These should be measured in tens of miles rather than hundreds of miles.
- ◇ Have an out-of-state friend as a family contact, so all your family members have a single point of contact.
- ◇ Make a plan now for what to do with your pets if you need to evacuate.
- ◇ Post emergency telephone numbers by your phones and make sure your children know how and when to call 911.
- ◇ Check your insurance coverage – flood damage is not usually covered by homeowners insurance.
- ◇ Stock non-perishable emergency supplies and a Disaster Supply Kit.
- ◇ Use a NOAA weather radio. Remember to replace its battery every 6 months, as you do with your smoke detectors.
- ◇ Take First Aid, CPR and disaster preparedness classes.

### DISASTER SUPPLY KIT

- ◇ **Water** – at least 1 gallon daily per person for 3 to 7 days
- ◇ **Food** – at least enough for 3 to 7 days
  - non-perishable packaged or canned food / juices
  - foods for infants or the elderly
  - snack foods
  - non-electric can opener
  - cooking tools / fuel
  - paper plates / plastic utensils
- ◇ **Blankets / Pillows, etc.**
- ◇ **Clothing** – seasonal / rain gear / sturdy shoes
- ◇ **First Aid Kit / Medicines / Prescription Drugs**
- ◇ **Special Items** – for babies and the elderly
- ◇ **Toiletries / Hygiene items / Moisture wipes**
- ◇ **Flashlight / Batteries**
- ◇ **Radio** – Battery operated and NOAA weather radio
- ◇ **Telephones** – Fully charged cell phone with extra battery and a traditional (not cordless) telephone set
- ◇ **Cash (with some small bills) and Credit Cards** – Banks and ATMs may not be available for extended periods
- ◇ seasonal / rain gear / sturdy shoes
- ◇ **Keys**
- ◇ **Toys, Books and Games**
- ◇ **Important documents** – In a waterproof container or watertight resealable plastic bag
  - Insurance, medical records, bank account numbers, Social Security card, etc.
- ◇ **Tools** – keep a set with you during the storm
- ◇ **Vehicle fuel tanks filled**
- ◇ **Pet care items**
  - Proper identification / immunization records / medications
  - Ample supply of food and water
  - A carrier or cage
  - Muzzle and leash

### HAVE A PLACE TO GO

- ◇ Develop a family hurricane preparedness plan before an actual storm threatens your area.
- ◇ If ordered to evacuate, do not wait or delay your departure.
- ◇ Select an evacuation destination that is nearest to your home, preferably in the same county, or at least minimize the distance over which you must travel in order to reach your intended shelter location.
- ◇ If you decide to evacuate to another county or region, be prepared to wait in traffic.
- ◇ If a hotel or motel is your final intended destination during an evacuation, make reservations before you leave.
- ◇ If you are unable to stay with friends or family and no hotels/motels rooms are available, then as a last resort go to a shelter.
- ◇ Make sure that you fill up your car with gas, before you leave.